

October 2, 2013

Sandra Kahn, President
Republican Women's Federation of Michigan
4520 Midland Road
Saginaw, MI 48603

Honorable Legislators:

I am here today as President of Republican Women's Federation of Michigan, an organization comprised of 27 Clubs throughout the State with a membership of slightly over 1000 women.

I am not here to speak in opposition to Common Core State Standards, although my Board does not consider them superior to present Michigan standards. I am here to speak in support of the joint resolution HR 0011 and in opposition to Smarter Balance testing.

In house hearings this summer, I heard State Superintendent Michael Flanagan agree that classroom instruction would be "taught to the test" and that students would be encouraged to "study to the test." He elaborated enthusiastically on this point stating that this was the "point of a test". Because we agree with Mr. Flanagan's assessment, it is the strong opinion of my organization that a "test is not just a test" as other defenders of Smarter Balance have stated. It is high stakes measurement that has the potential to control the curriculum of public, private and even homeschooled children. For this reason, we believe it is imperative that the citizens of Michigan maintain its present control of student assessment testing. To us, as mothers and grandmothers, "high stakes testing" is nothing compared to the far higher stakes of controlling the direction of our children's education. For a matter of such importance, to say that Michigan "has a seat at the table" in test design (also testified to in House hearings) is insufficient and promises nothing as to where Michigan will sit tomorrow.

As controversy over the "experiment" of Common Core State Standards continues, we especially support the Resolution in HR 0011 stating "That the Michigan Department of Education will provide an official way for parents, teachers, administrators, and the public to provide feedback on the implementation of the Common Core State Standards and appropriate assessment aligned with those standards."

Many of the goals and benchmarks in Common Core State Standards remain untested for appropriate and effective learning. Because of this, it is of utmost importance that parents and "hands on educators" have a meaningful way to provide feedback and redress for unforeseen problems, learning difficulties and developmental or contextual inappropriateness in this program.

Thank you for your consideration and for the work you do in protecting the welfare, opportunities and freedoms of Michigan citizens.

Respectfully submitted,

RWFM Board of Directors: Sandra Kahn, President